Ontario

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Report Back to the Deputy's Advisory Group on Life Sciences

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In its March 2002 report to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Deputy's Advisory Group for Life Sciences (DAGLS) developed the following goal:

Through the strategic and responsible use of life sciences, Ontario will be a world leader in the research, development and commercialization of bio-products by 2010.

A number of projects and activities are building upon these strategies and help to support the overarching goal for Ontario developed by the DAGLS. A review of these projects and activities, covering the period between September 2003 and April 2004, is included in this report.

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Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference

OMAF has initiated discussion with the City of Guelph in regards to hosting the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference (ABIC) in 2007.

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Agricultural Policy Framework

The Agriculture Policy Framework (APF) includes a chapter on Science and Innovation. The goals of the chapter include realigning public science resources, co-ordinating related activities along the whole value chain, and creating an innovation climate within the agri-food sector. With the signing of the Canada-Ontario Implementation Agreement on December 11, 2003, Ontario's Science and Innovation initiatives have secured $9.4 million in federal support.

All seven initiatives under the APF Science and Innovation Chapter have been initiated. These include Bioenterprise Corporation, Soy 20/20, MaRS LANDING, Agriculture Research Institute of Ontario's Agri-Food Research and Development Strategy, the Alternative Renewable Fuels Research and Development Fund, the Life Science Agri-Food Innovation Fund and the Ontario Agri-food Innovation Awareness Program. A federal contribution agreements that allow federal funds to flow to these initiatives has been signed by Bioenterprise Corporation. Federal contribution agreements are also in the process of being signed by Soy 20/20 and MaRS LANDING. The goal is to have all the agreements signed over the next two months.

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Agri-Food Research and Development Strategy

During the summer and fall of 2003, staff of OMAF's Innovation and Risk Management Branch supported the Agricultural Research Institute for Ontario (ARIO) in the development of a strategic options paper for Ontario's agri-food research and development system. Based on the report and its recommendations, ARIO will present recommendations on agri-food research and development to Ontario's Minister of Agriculture and Food.

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Alternative Renewable Fuels Research and Development Fund

Ontario's Alternative Renewable Fuels Research and Development Fund was announced in June 2003. The fund is designed to enable continuous improvement in alternative products and processes, promote agricultural value-added opportunities in Ontario, and assist alternative renewable fuels production facilities in Ontario to be major participants in the global industry.

An initial call for proposals was issued in July 2003 offering $250,000 in funding. Twenty-two letters of intent were submitted, and eight of those applicants were invited to submit full proposals. These have passed through a two-stage review process including technical reviews by experts in the field. Six of the projects have been offered full or partial funding. Two of these projects are being co-funded by Natural Resources Canada.

Three of the projects that have been offered funding are focused on value- added uses for co-products of biofuel production. One is identifying improvements to processes for biodeisel production, and the remaining two are looking at potential use of agricultural feedstocks for hydrogen fuel cells. Information on the successful researchers will be made public in the near future.

Additional funding for the Alternative Renewable Fuels R&D Fund has been obtained under the Science and Innovation Chapter of the Agricultural Policy Framework. An additional $120,000 per year over five years will be available for investment in Alternative Renewable Fuels projects.

The next Call for Proposals will be issued within the next few months following a review of the priorities in consultation with stakeholder groups.

http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAF/english/research/arfuels/index.html

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BIO 2003 and 2004

In June 2003, the Ontario government (including OMAF) participated in BIO 2003, held in Washington D.C. At this conference, the following issues were addressed: business development, science and regulatory affairs, global health, bioethics and patient advocacy. Ontario had a booth at the conference to promote and attract biotechnology investment opportunities.

Ontario will also participate in BIO 2004, to be held in San Francisco on June 6-9, 2004. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) will organize investment meetings as well as meetings with other jurisdictions. The event is expected to attract 20,000 delegates from over 50 countries, and will focus on human health.

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Biocap Canada

The Canadian Agri-Food Research Council (CARC) and BIOCAP Canada Foundation released a joint study in June 2003 titled, "An Assessment of the Opportunities and Challenges of a Bio-Based Economy for Agriculture and Food Research in Canada". This study provides Canadian researchers, legislators and the public a better understanding of the research and development gaps involved in the bioproducts industry.

http://www.carc-crac.ca/index.html

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Bioenterprise Corporation

In the summer of 2003, Bioenterprise Corporation was established in Guelph, and Connie Hearty was named as its President. Bioenterprise is a private, non-profit organization with a mandate to build bio-based businesses. It rapidly accelerates the commercial success of embryonic and emerging agri-food and life science start-up companies which have a strong potential for growth.

Bioenterprises plans to work with 2 new companies a year, build Bioenterprises's services, develop several networks, and offer workshops with a focus on food and agri-food technology commercialization initiatives. The first seminar called, "Power of Positive Linking" took place on October 14, 2003.

Bioenterprise continues to build their list of services and develop several networks, which include the Investor, Research, Commercialization, and Entrepreneur networks.

Bioenterprise Corporation has signed letters of intent with Science Based Medicinal Plants Inc. and Summit One Food Inc.

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Bio-Innovation Strategic Research and Development Plan

The Renewable Energy Technology group at CANMET, Natural Resources Canada, is leading an interdepartmental process to develop a Bio-Innovation Strategic Research and Development Plan that will

guide on-going and future federal S&T investments in the area of bio-energy, bio-fuels, bio-products and bio-processes.

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Biotechnology Cluster Innovation Program

OMAF staff, in partnership with MEDT, are working with agriculture-based rural municipalities to implement MEDT 's Biotechnology Cluster Innovation Program (BCIP). Originally, four of Ontario's regional consortiums, out of a total of 11, identified bio-products as a focus area. Hamilton / Niagara added bioproducts to their focus areas, and has joined Guelph / Waterloo, Ottawa / Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, Sarnia / Chatham / Windsor, and Kingston / Quinte / Belleville.

MEDT held a BCIP Summit meeting in Toronto on October 15-16, 2003 and all 11 clusters attended. During the bio-product breakout session, the 4 bio-product clusters agreed to work collaboratively on a provincial bio-product innovation plan. It was agreed that bi-weekly conference calls between the five clusters be established to share information between bio-product clusters.

Conference calls started on October 30, 2003 and continued until the end of February, 2004. A shared internet site for the 5 bio-product clusters was also established on the MaRS LANDING website. Observer status on these calls was afforded to staff from MEDT, OMAF, Industry Canada, the National Research Council, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

After the second BCIP Summit meeting, held in March 2004, Sarnia / Chatham / Windsor, London, Hamilton / Niagara, Guelph/Waterloo, Kingston / Quinte / Belleville, Ottawa / Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry and Northern Ontario have all agreed to work together under the direction of Dr. Gord Surgeoner to develop a Bio-products Strategy for the province. Funding for the strategy development will come from two sources including Ontario Agri-Food Technologies and MEDT. The clusters' baseline data, collected in Phase 1 of the BCIP, will be used in the development of the provincial strategy. The objective of the clusters working together on a strategy is to identify synergies, to provide a provincial perspective to the individual cluster projects, and to prevent duplication.

The clusters continue to post their reports and other relevant reports on the MaRS LANDING website. Federal departments including Industry Canada, the National Research Council, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, continue to stay engaged in the BCIP program and have all indicated a willingness to support the Provincial Bio-products Strategy when appropriate activities/projects are identified. The target for completion for both the strategy and cluster projects is June 2004.

http://www.ontariocanada.com/ontcan/en/rts/rts_bcip.jsp

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Biotechnology Council Ontario

The creation of the Biotechnology Council of Ontario (BCO) was announced on November 20, 2003, at the BioNorth 2003 Conference in Ottawa. The BCO has been established to advise the government on all public policy issues facing the biotechnology industry and to advocate on behalf of the industry in Ontario. The Council will be open to all biotechnology stakeholders in Ontario and will strive to fully integrate the interests of groups that span geographic and functional boundaries. The BCO will have more than 10 Regional Councils, representing such regions as London, Waterloo, Guelph, the Golden Horseshoe, Mississauga, Toronto, York Region, Peterborough, Kingston, Ottawa, and Northern Ontario. The BCO will also have more than 10 Functional (cross-regional) Groups, representing such sectors as biotech companies, hospitals, economic development, pharmaceuticals, tech transfer, task forces, incubators, research parks, venture capital, and bio-ethics.

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Biotechnology Human Resource Council

On January 16, 2004, the Biotechnology Human Resource Council (BHRC) announced the launch of a new wage subsidy program, Career Focus, funded by the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES). The program is designed to provide valuable work experience in the sector for young people aged 30 or under who are unemployed or underemployed. The project provides cash incentives to industries for the creation of employment opportunities for new graduates in biotechnology. The core offering of the program is a wage subsidy that offsets part of the cost of staffing a new biotech position. Subsidies will cover approximately one third of salaries paid out to participants for a minimum 6-month period ($10,635 maximum subsidy for a 12-month period).

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Canadian Bioprocessing Institute

The Canadian Bioprocessing Institute (CBI) developed as a result of a stakeholder-driven national strategy for Canada's biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry focussing on the use of both traditional and novel (transgenic plants and animals) expression systems.

On November 19 and 20, 2003, CBI hosted the CBI Founders Conference in Ottawa. The conference brought together more than 50 of CBI's stakeholders to date. The two-day session included international and national speakers as well as a working strategy session for the CBI project.

CBI has conducted several studies:
- A database of all biopharmaceutical products in Canada and the FDA;
- A catalogue of public sector research in biopharmaceutical manufacturing;
- A study to profile the biopharmaceutical manufacturing landscape; and
- A study to understand industry training requirements.

Steering Committees for each of the components for CBI - the Networks, Bioprocessing Institute, and cGMP Pilot Facility - continue to develop the models for their respective responsibilities. The first CBI networks are expected to launch in May 2004.

In its ongoing efforts to further community-building activities in the biopharmaceutical industry, the Bioprocessing Institute has created new communications materials and has begun planning for additional events. In March, 2004, based on the market research developed to create its Business Plan, CBI developed a series of White Papers relating to the biopharmaceutical manufacturing industry. In addition, a contract was issued to a communications firm to develop a branding package for CBI, to assist in creating name recognition and the launch of the website. Programming, reservations and announcements have been completed for the inaugural CBI Annual General Meeting, scheduled for May 17 & 18.

CBI continues to distribute a bi-monthly newsletter to approximately 285 individuals from industry, government, and academia.

Efforts have also been made to develop linkages and partnerships between the Bioprocessing Institute and domestic and international organizations.

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Climate Change Plan

OMAF is working with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) - the lead ministry responsible for climate change coordination in Ontario - and the federal government to ensure Ontario's industry has access to the $1 billion climate change funds announced on August 12, 2003. Funds are being allocated towards the implementation of the Climate Change Plan for Canada.

Opportunities Envelope Fund - $160 million has been allocated to achieve direct greenhouse gas emissions reduction. MOE is the lead contact with the federal government for the Opportunities Envelope Fund, and OMAF has begun contact with MOE to convey OMAF's interest in this fund. The criteria for the federal Opportunities Envelop Fund have not yet been finalized, but draft OMAF proposals are being

compiled. This fund will require 50/50 cost sharing between the federal government and provincial government and/or producers and industry.

Biodiesel -(research and demonstration) - $11.9 million will be invested to support research and provide incentives for industrial-scale biodiesel pilot plants, and support demonstrations of its effectiveness to encourage broader use of this cleaner-burning alternative to conventional diesel.

Biofuels - $30 million will go to support the development and demonstration of bio-based energy systems and technologies. This covers a broad range of technologies, including biomass and waste conversions, cellulosic ethanol from biomass and other biofuels, bio-processes, biomass production, harvesting and transportation, and energy from biomass.

Ethanol Expansion Program - In October, 2003, the Government of Canada launched the Ethanol Expansion Program by inviting industry to submit proposals for contributions toward the construction of new ethanol plants. On February 13, 2004, the first round of the Ethanol Expansion Program allocated $78 million. Two Ontario applicants were successful in securing funding through this program: Seaway Valley Farmer's Energy Cooperative Inc. in Cornwall, ($10.5 M); and Suncor Energy Products Inc. in Sarnia, ($22 M).

In addition to encouraging increased production, the federal government is also promoting greater use of ethanol. In partnership with several gasoline retailers, the Government of Canada has launched a consumer awareness campaign that will promote the benefits of ethanol-blended gasoline to Canadian drivers.

A workshop to present results of a contract on biodiesel, commissioned by AAFC, was held in Ottawa on October 30, 2003. A meeting was held on November 20 about forming a small steering committee through the Federal Bio-Products Working Group to move toward a biodiesel proposal for consideration by APF Science & Innovation Working Group and other funding partners.

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Communications

In spring 2003, OMAF featured the life science/ bio-products booth at the "Bio-products Showcase on the Hill" event in Ottawa. OMAF also participated in the City of Guelph Economic Development Showcase and Trade Show on September 9, 2003.

Several of OMAF's life science initiatives (e.g. MaRS LANDING, Soy 20/20, OAFT and Bioenterprise) appeared in the August/September 2003 Issue of Better Farming, in the article entitled "Across the Agri-food Spectrum INNOVATION is the Name of the Game".
http://www.betterfarming.com/nov99/cover.htm

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Convergence Breeds Innovation Conference

The Guelph Partnership for Innovation (GPI), together with the local branch of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) and the Kitchener-Waterloo Software Quality Association, helped to organize the annual Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph Quality conference, held in February, 2004. GPI developed a track that addressed the advancing fields of life sciences and bio-products.

The event brought together individuals from the financial community, and information technology, health sciences and manufacturing sectors to discuss quality issues. Total attendance for the event was 130 people.

The Bio-science track included presentations from Dr. Greg Penner, Executive Director Soy 20/20; Dr. Frank Maine, President PSA Composites; Geof Kime, President HempLine; and Dr. Peter Frise Executive Director Auto 21.
Dr. Gord Surgeoner was the keynote speaker and spoke on the topic of convergence and the bridges that

will be built between the many distinct stakeholders in the room.

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Ensyn Technology

Ensyn Technology, based in Renfrew Ontario, has been granted $3.4 million from Ontario's OSTAR RED program to invest in environmentally friendly technology to transform wood residue from local industry into electricity and natural chemicals. Project partners include Ensyn Technologies Inc., the Renfrew Industrial Commission and Opeongo Forestry Service, which will provide the balance of the $8,834,000 funding for this initiative. Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have also contributed in excess of $4 million to the project.

Ensyn will begin receiving equipment in May, and is completing detailed engineering. The opening of the facility is planned for October, 2004.

http://www.ensyn.com

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Environmental Technology Assessment for Agriculture Program

The Environmental Technology Assessment for Agriculture (ETAA) Program (2003-2008) has been established to assess the environmental and economic performance of innovative food production technologies that maintain and enhance the health of natural resources.

The ETAA program placed a call for Letters of Intent on January 16, 2004 from organizations that may be interested in obtaining funds. This program is targeting multidisciplinary teams of farmers, industry, and scientists from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in collaboration with non-government scientists and professionals. The deadline for Letters of Interest was February 6, 2004.

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Flax

The federal portion of the APF Science and Innovation Chapter funded a brainstorming session on November 24-25, 2003, regarding the potential of flax as a bio-economy crop for Canada. An additional meeting took place on December 8-9 in Ottawa to determine next steps toward a Government of Canada strategy on flax. The initiative is being led by the Flax Council of Canada.

http://www.flaxcouncil.ca/

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Food Industry Competitiveness Branch

In an effort to increase awareness of Ontario's Bio-based Industry, and to attract foreign investors, OMAF's Food Industry Competitiveness Branch (FICB) continues to work with Ontario Agri-Food Technologies (OAFT) and other partners in marketing life science opportunities using the Bio-based Products marketing brochure. In addition, OMAF has produced a Life Science presentation folder, logo and slide deck for use by its partners (e.g. OAFT, Bioenterprise Corp., MaRS LANDING and Soy 20/20). The marketing brochure will be updated as needed during 2004-05.

FICB staff continue to research life science investment opportunities in key markets in the U.S. Staff also continue to work with other government partners (e.g., MEDT, the City of Guelph, and AAFC) to support incoming foreign investment missions to Ontario and to connect them with appropriate researchers and firms.

FICB has generated the following investment opportunities as they continue to be active files:
· GTC Biotherapeutics (USA) - nutraceuticals and functional foods;
· Pharmetics (Quebec) - vitamins and nutritional supplements; and
· Lomax (Quebec) - soy-based meat replacements.

FICB staff continue to provide client services to potential investors and existing manufacturers concerning possible expansions, joint ventures, or new plants.

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Guelph Partnership for Innovation

The Guelph Partnership for Innovation (GPI) is a consortium of private, public and academic representatives in Guelph. GPI coordinates information sharing among life science and agri-food companies in the Guelph region and fosters the development of Guelph as a leading centre for life science and agri-food research, development and commercialization. September 2003 marked the first anniversary of GPI.

Five networking breakfasts have been planned for the 2003-04 season. The third breakfast in the "Innovation Lives Here" series was held in January, 2004. Dr. John Kelly, Executive Director of MaRS LANDING, and Ken Knox, CEO of MaRS Discovery District, presented on the MaRS and MaRS LANDING projects.

The March session showcased a local success story from the founders of eHarvest and Farms.com. Joe Dales and Graham Dyer presented a case study of their business development tactics and strategies during the dot.com boom and bust.

The final breakfast of this series will take place on May 13, 2004. Dr. Alan Wildeman, VP research for the University of Guelph, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Wildeman will discuss current activities and future visions and direction for the University of Guelph and its affiliated colleges. Topics to be discussed include the new science complex, research and commercialization of bio-products, advanced food research and the new Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE).

The 2004-05 season for GPI will begin on September 9, 2004. The theme for next season will be "We believe in magic". Presentations will focus on the growth and potential of the agricultural sector.

GPI also plans to organize a series of workshop in the coming months to focus on topics like environmental technologies, BioPhotonics, bio-energy, and entrepreneurship.

http://www.guelphinnovation.com

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Life Sciences and Agri-Food Innovation Fund

The Life Science and Agri-Food Innovation Fund will be launched in the next few months. This program will be focused on helping to bridge the pre-commercialization gap for promising technologies in the agri-food and related life sciences area. Program details are nearing the final draft stage.

Life Sciences Research Compendium

OMAF is in the process of developing a Life Sciences Research Compendium that will list the current projects in the life sciences that are funded by OMAF.

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MaRS

MARS Discovery District (MaRS) is a not-for-profit corporation founded by leaders from Canada's academic, business, and scientific communities. MaRS is the charitable arm of the MaRS Group, which intends to create a scientific research and development centre where the best-in-class scientific and medical and related sciences communities, including universities and hospitals, are brought together with business and venture capital to facilitate the commercialization of academic research in Canada.

Phase One construction for the MaRS Centre continues to be on schedule for opening in 2005. Construction for Phase Two is scheduled to start in thesummer of 2004.

MaRS has launched two programs targeted at researchers, technology transfer officers and start-up companies. The MaRS Workshop series provides practical in-depth seminars while the MaRS Entrepreneur series features entrepreneurial scientists in an informal and interactive session. Information on all MaRS programs, and some of the events sponsored by MaRS is available on the MaRS website.

http://www.marsdd.com

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MaRS LANDING

MaRS LANDING is dedicated to linking scientific research and development in rural Ontario with the best-in-class scientific and medical and related sciences communities, including universities and hospitals, in the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto.

In April 2003, MaRS LANDING appointed Dr. John Kelly as its Director and opened an office in Guelph. Linkages with various sectors and components of the commercialization chain are key to MaRS Landing activities.

MaRS Landing has put together the syllabus for a graduate course in commercialization for the University of Guelph. Dr. David Sparling and Dr. John Kelly have taken the lead on the course, which will be first delivered in 2004.

Coordination of linkages using the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION) have begun between the University of Guelph (Ontario Veterinary College) and the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto.

A database of research capacity and capability related to MaRS Landing's activities has been initiated for the University of Guelph, as well as other research institutions in Ontario.

Many meetings have been held across the province to demonstrate the MaRS concept. Commercialization activities associated with different technologies have been undertaken. Investment attraction has also occurred in Ontario.

MaRS Landing will open an office in the MaRS Centre in Toronto to facilitate access for rural entrepreneurs to the services and programs that will be offered.

http://www.marslanding.ca

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New Directions in Agri-Food and Rural Research Program 2004

The purpose of the New Directions in Agri-Food and Rural Research Program program is to stimulate the sustainable growth and competitiveness of Ontario's agri-food and rural sectors, through investment in high quality research in partnership with industry, rural communities/organizations, other levels of government, and research institutions.

New for this year's program is a focus on three areas of interest: value chains, environmental sustainability, and life sciences. Projects are required to demonstrate innovation, partnerships, and benefits to Ontario. Funding requests are limited to $100,000 per project, and applicants are expected to have secured other cash or in-kind funding. Available funding for this year totals $1.3 million.

The Call for Proposals in October 2003 resulted in 93 Letters of Intent requesting over $7 million. Forty-three were invited to submit a full proposal. The submission deadline was January 30, 2004. The final selection of projects will be based on reviews by scientific experts, industry and OMAF staff.

http://www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/research/new_directions/index.html

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Ontario Agri-Food Technologies

Ontario Agri-Food Technologies (OAFT) is a not-for-profit organization with members from farm associations, academia, industry and governments. It focuses on Ontario's participation in developing, promoting and adopting biotechnology in an ethical and environmentally conscious manner, for the agri-food sector of the province.

OAFT completed a number of projects over the last year. These include:

- The Down to Earth Project (approximately $300,000) funded by CanAdapt, Commodity Council and Supply Management. In total, 12 short advertisements were aired on Global Television. The total reach was 31 million consumers.

- A brochure entitled "BioProducts for the 21st Century", now in second printing. OAFT received $10,000 from OMAF to develop it.

- With funding from CanAdapt, Lorama Chemicals and the Ontario Corn Producers' Association (OCPA), a proposal for the development of starch-based flexigraph inks has been completed. Lorama Chemicals is developing its manufacturing capability for the inks.

- Five new industrial product lines were developed with $175,000 from CanAdapt and OCPA. This matches $175,000 from Lorama Chemicals for a total of $350,000. The project is for one year and subject to approval on a yearly basis. A condition for approval is the existence of a corn specialty starch processor in Ontario after 2004.

- OAFT began flowing money from the OBIS (Ontario Bio-Based Industrial Strategy) Fund to companies in Ontario for specific product development and business plans that will use Ontario-based agricultural fibre. Overall, this is a $300,000 project.

- Work on developing a business plan for a food-grade rail handling facility is being conducted with assistance from OMAF staff.

- The President of OAFT has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Toronto Biotechnology Cluster Consortium and on the Watershed Implementation Committee of the Ontario Ministry of Environment.

OAFT's membership is currently at 42. The Annual Meeting was held on March 5, 2004 in Guelph.

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Ontario Bio-Based Industrial Strategy

In May 2003, the Ontario Bio-Based Industrial Strategy (OBIS), a pilot initiative launched by Ontario Agri-Food Technologies Inc. (OAFT) and Soy 20/20, received Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development funding from AAFC in the amount of $300,000. With this funding OBIS was able to support five

companies in developing bio-product based business plans. These plans have been already used by two of the companies to successfully attract private investment, and expand capability.

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Ottawa Life Sciences Council

The Ottawa Life Sciences Council (OLSC) is a not-for-profit local and international, private and public sector partnership committed to stimulating the growth of the life sciences sector in the Ottawa area. Through its programs, projects and events, the OLSC strives to foster the development of new technologies and companies, as well as raise the profile of the local life sciences sector, both nationally and internationally. Key activities include: Networking and conferences, consortium building, business development and investment, technology and market development assistance, human resources development, targeted external marketing, and the creation of research parks. Its membership includes more 160 individuals, corporations and public institutions.

On November 17-19, 2003, the OLSC hosted its 10th annual BioNorth international conference and exhibition. The theme of BioNorth 2003 was one of international partnership and collaboration between Europe and NorthAmerica.

On November 18, 2003, the OLSC announced the winners of its awards for outstanding contributions to the life sciences sector. The 2003 Ottawa Life Sciences Achievement Awards went to: Dr. Malcom Perry (Basic Research Award), Dr. Shawn Aaron (Dr. Michael Smith Promising Scientist Award), Dr. Robert Korneluk (Career Achievement Award), Jamie Spiegelman and Paul Lem (Entrepreneur Award).

An initiative of the OLSC, the Advanced BioPhotonics Consortium (ABC) hosted a two workshops that focused on the convergence area of BioPhotonics. A meeting on BioPhotonics and the Environment was held on January 20, 2004. It attracted over 80 participants.

On March 30, 2004, ABC hosted a second workshop that focused on the application of BioPhotonics in food processing and food safety. Details of the two meetings can be found at http://www.olsc.ca/events/archives.php

On April 27, 2004, the OLSC will be hosting a workshop entitled "The Principals of Good Regulatory Practices". This workshop will cover issues surrounding GARP, GLP, GCP, and cGMP regulations.

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Soy 20/20

Soy 20/20 is a pilot project designed to encourage better coordination of research, production, commercialization and processing of Canadian-grown soybeans. Its focus is on capturing incremental markets for soybeans.

Soy 20/20 completed a comprehensive analysis of market opportunities for Canadian soybeans including an evaluation of cost/price points for food and bio-based applications and the competitive positioning of Canada relative to other soybean-producing countries.

Soy 20/20 has assisted researchers to obtain funding (approximately $1 M to date) for tackling opportunities that, given success, will lead to increased demand for Canadian soybeans. In addition, Soy 20/20 has worked with a number of small companies to help them shape their business plans and obtain investment capital enabling them to increase their domestic soybean manufacturing capacity (over $2 M to date).

Over the last year, Dr. Greg Penner, Project Director of Soy 20/20, has chaired the following workshops:

- National technology workshop on biomass availability in Canada;
- Soyfood research SWOT workshop (included all soyfood researchers in Canada);

· Soyfood research/industry workshop (aimed at sharing capabilities and imaginations);
· Ontario bakery workshop (aimed at working on constraints to the incorporation of soy protein in baked goods); and
· Soy wax candle workshop (involved all candle manufacturers in Ontario and was aimed at providing information in regard to the use of Canadian soy wax in candles).

Mr. Penner is a board member of the Ontario Chemistry Value Chain Initiative, involving the major chemical companies in Ontario, was involved in reviewing the AAFC MII and ETAA programs, and is a key leader of Industry Canada's Bio-based Technology Innovation Roadmap for Canada. Mr. Penner also reviews grant applications submitted to OMAF, CanAdapt, and the Ontario Soybean Growers as they relate to soybean opportunities in Canada.

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Sustainable Development Technology Canada

Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) is a $350 million fund for the development, demonstration and pre-commercialization of sustainable development technologies. From its new funding, SDTC is being asked to dedicate $50 million to cleaner fossil fuel technologies and $50 million to hydrogen technologies.

On January 21, 2004 SDTC announced the launch of its Fifth Round funding call for Statements of Interest (SOIs). Since its first round in April 2002, more than 735 consortia (representing more than 2,000 companies and institutions) requested $1.4B in funding which was leveraged by an additional $3.2B that the consortia brought with them. Applications represent a broad range of sectors and technologies from companies in every province and territory in Canada. To date, 27 projects totalling $39.7M have been approved (Round 1 to 3) and another 24 (Round 4) are currently under consideration for financing.

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Voluntary Labelling Standard

In September, 2003, The Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors (CCGD) and the Chair of the Canadian General Standards Board Committee on the Voluntary Labelling of Foods Obtained or Not Obtained Through Genetic Modification announced that consensus approval was reached on a voluntary standard for labelling and advertising of foods that are, or are not, products of genetic engineering.

The standard has been issued by the Standards Council of Canada. Its official title is: Voluntary Labelling and Advertising of Foods that Are and Are Not Products of Genetic Engineering. CAN/CGSB-32.315-2004

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World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing

The first World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing was held in Orlando, Florida, on April 21-23, 2004. Representatives of the BCIP Bioproduct Clusters attended the conference in order to learn more about bio-product activities in other jurisdictions and the state of the current technology.

The information garnered from this meeting will be incorporated into Ontario's Bioproducts Strategy by the cluster representatives. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will be hosting the opening reception for the conference with a "Think Canada" theme.

http://www.bio.org/worldcongress

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Appendix 1 - Upcoming Events

May 11-13, 2004
BioFinance 2004
Toronto, Ontario
Further information: http://www.biofinance2003.com

May 16-20, 2004
Bio-Science Week
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Further information: http://www.bio-science.sk.ca/

May 17-18, 2004
CBI Annual General Meeting
Ottawa, Ontario
Further information: Cristi@olsc.ca

June 6-9, 2004
BIO 2004 Annual International Convention
San Fransisco, California
Further information: http://www.bio.org

June 13-16
Agricultural Biotechnology, Finding Common International Goals
Guelph, Ontario
Further information: http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/NABC/index.shtml

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